



## JESUS, INTRODUCTION: THE FOUR GOSPELS

The central theme of the Bible is Jesus; He is the focal point. The books of the Bible that focus on the Jesus are known as the *Gospels*. The word *gospel* is derived from two words: good and story literally, it means *the good news* and is used to signify the message of forgiveness and reconciliation of Jesus.

The four New Testament reporters who wrote the story of this good news are Matthew, a converted tax collector; Mark, a missionary; Luke, a physician; and John, a fisherman.

**BIG IDEA:** The unknown God has made Himself known through His Son Jesus.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Chris said that the 'unknown God' made Himself known through Jesus. How should we respond to this revelation in our daily lives?
2. "How accurate are the copies we have today?" Based upon the chart below, how does the Bible compare to other literary works from antiquity?

Name of Literary Work	# of Copies	Time Gap
Homer's Iliad	643 Copies	500 years
Plato's Republic	7 Copies	1,300 years (900AD)
Aristotle	5 Copies	1,400 years
Julius Caesar	10 Copies	1,000 years (900AD)
Thucydides	8 Copies	1,300 years (900AD)
(How we know that a person named Alexander the Great ever existed!!)		
We have 5,492 Greek manuscripts, 10,000 Latin & 9,300 other versions	24,792 copies	90 years (125-135AD)

3. Considering the large number of New Testament manuscripts and early dating, how does this historical reliability affect your faith in the New Testament's account of Jesus?
4. What does the existence of four separate accounts of Jesus' life (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) tell us about the significance of His teachings and actions?
5. Chris went through how each of the 4 Gospels present Jesus—emphasizing certain things to prove the point that they were writing about to a specific audience.

MATTHEW was a **Jew** who wrote to **Jews** presenting Jesus Christ as the **King** of the **Jews**.

MARK was a **Roman** who wrote to **Romans** presenting Jesus Christ as the **Servant**.

LUKE was a **Greek** who wrote to **Greeks** presenting Jesus Christ as the **Savior**.

JOHN was a Christian who wrote to the world so they could believe that Jesus is God.

6. Each Gospel presents a different perspective of Jesus (*King, Servant, Savior, Deity*). How do these diverse portrayals enhance our understanding of Jesus' character and mission?
7. Chris said that the 'unknown God' made Himself known through Jesus. How should we respond to this revelation in our daily lives?
8. [With your Bible or Bible App, read John 1:1-4, 14.](#)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. <sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. <sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

[John 1:1-4, 14 \(NLT\)](#)

9. [John 1:1](#) starts with "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." How does this description of Jesus as the Word deepen your understanding of His nature and relationship with God?
10. What does the incarnation (the Word becoming flesh) reveal about God's character and His approach to engaging with humanity?
11. Chris mentioned Jesus 'tabernacling' among us ([John 1:14](#)). What is the significance of this imagery, especially in the context of Old Testament history?
12. Lastly, look at the prophecies of the Bible. There were over 300 prophecies fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

OT PROPHECY		NT FULLFILLMENT
Born of a Virgin	Isa 7:14	Matt 1:25
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matt 2:1-2
Anointed by the Spirit	Isa 11:2	Matt 3:16
Rides Triumphantly on Donkey	Zech 9:9	John 12:14-15
Betrayed By Friend	Ps 41:9	Matt 26:48-49
Silent Before Accusers	Isa 53:7	Matt 27:12
Beaten and Spat Upon	Isa 50:6	Matt 26:67
Cast Lots for Clothing	Ps 22:18	John 19:23-24
Crucified With Criminals	Isa 53:12	Mark 15:27
Given Vinegar to Drink	Ps 69:21	John 19:28-30
Forsaken By God	Ps 22:1	Matt 27:46
Pierced For Our Sins	Isa 53:5	John 19:34-35
His Bones Will Not Be Broken	Ps 34:20	John 19:33
The Day Turns Dark	Amos 8:9	Matt 27:45
He Will Rise Again	Ps 118:17-18	Mark 16:6-8

Mathematician and scientist Peter Stoner said that the likelihood of just 8 of these 300 prophecies about Jesus coming true is 1 in 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup> power. That's — 1 followed by seventeen 0's. It looks like this— 100,000,000,000,000,000! Compare that to the odds of someone being struck by lightning are 1 in 709,260. Or the odds of winning the Lottery are 1 in 5,245,786. He writes:

*Imagine taking one silver dollar and putting an X on it, and dropping that silver dollar somewhere— anywhere in the state of Texas. Maybe around Austin, Lubbock, Dallas, Amarillo, Houston—anywhere in the state of Texas. In the field, on the highway—anywhere. Then, dumping 2 feet of silver dollars all over the entire state of Texas. All over the entire state of Texas, there is one coin that you need to find in 2 feet of silver dollars covering the whole state. Blindfold a man and tell him to find that one silver dollar that has an 'X' on it. You can wander and walk anywhere you want—for days, weeks, months or years if you want to. When you think you might be at the spot with the 'X' on it, reach down into the 2 feet of coins and pull out the right one.*

## MOVING FORWARD

God took all the guesswork out of knowing Him and revealed Himself through 4 men who wrote about Jesus Christ. To know Jesus is to know God. All we need to do is search for Him in the scriptures, and He will reveal Himself to us.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

<sup>1</sup> *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.* <sup>2</sup> *He existed in the beginning with God.* <sup>3</sup> *God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.*

*John 1:1-2 (NLT)*